



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket Number USCG-2017-1100]

RIN 1625-AA08

Special Local Regulation; Pamlico River, Washington, NC

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a special local regulation on the navigable waters of the Pamlico River near Washington, North Carolina. This special local regulation is intended to restrict vessel traffic on the Pamlico River during a high-speed boat race. This action is intended to restrict vessel traffic movement in the regulated area to protect participants, spectators, and property from the hazards posed by high-speed boat races. Entry of vessels or persons into this special local regulation is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port (COTP) North Carolina or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective from 7 a.m. on February 23, 2018, through noon on February 24, 2018, with an alternate date of February 25, 2018 from 7 a.m. through noon.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2017-1100 in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH." Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email

Petty Officer Matthew Tyson, Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina, Wilmington, NC; telephone: 910- 772-2221, email: Matthew.I.Tyson@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	Federal Register
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code
COTP	Captain of the Port

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because the Coast Guard was notified about the race on December 1, 2017 and there were multiple revisions over the following three weeks. It is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to delay this action. Waiting for a comment period to run would inhibit the Coast Guard’s ability to protect the public and participants from the dangers associated with the high-speed boat race scheduled to start on February 23, 2018.

For the same reasons, the Coast Guard finds good cause to make this rule effective less than 30 days after publication, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). Immediate implementation is required to protect the public and participants from the dangers associated with these activities.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 33 U.S.C. 1233. The COTP North Carolina has determined that potential hazards associated with the Iconic Marine Group Kilo Race scheduled on February 23 and February 24, 2018, with an alternate date February 25, 2018, is a safety concern for mariners during the high-speed boat race on the Pamlico River near Washington, North Carolina. This rule is necessary to protect persons and vessels from the potential hazards associated with the high-speed boat race.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a special local regulation on a portion of the Pamlico River on February 23 and February 24, 2018, with an alternate date of February 25, 2018, in the event that weather or other factors do not allow the race to commence on the primary dates. The special local regulation will be enforced for approximately one hour between the hours of 7 a.m. and noon, when environmental conditions meet the requirements for the race. The exact times of enforcement will be broadcast locally over VHF-FM marine radio. The special local regulation will include all navigable waters of the Pamlico River near Washington, North Carolina, from approximate positions: latitude 35°28'42"N, longitude 076°59'14"W, then northwest to latitude 35°29'53"N, longitude 077°01'18"W, then northwest along the shoreline to latitude 35°32'29"N, longitude 077°03'47"W, then northwest to latitude 35°32'34"N, longitude 077°03'56"W, then northeast to latitude 35°32'42"N, longitude 077°03'50"W, then southeast along the shoreline to latitude 35°29'06"N, longitude 076°58'48"W, then southwest back to the point of origin, a length of approximately six miles. The duration of this special local regulation is intended to protect participants, spectators, and property on the navigable waters of the Pamlico River during the high-speed boat race. This is a timed race and only one boat will race at a time. No vessel or

person will be permitted to enter the special local regulation unless specifically authorized by the COTP North Carolina or a designated representative. Spectators may request to be allowed inside the special local regulation. The spectator area will be marked with temporary buoys and will be at least 100 yards from the race course. Vessels may request permission to pass through the special local regulation between race heats.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. Executive Order 13771 directs agencies to control regulatory costs through a budgeting process. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and pursuant to OMB guidance it is exempt from the requirements of Executive Order 13771.

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, and duration of the proposed special local regulation. Vessel traffic will not be allowed to enter or transit a portion of the Pamlico River on February 23 and February 24, 2018 with an alternate date of February 25, 2018 for approximately one hour on each day. The Coast Guard will issue a Local Notice to Mariners and transmit a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 regarding the special local regulation. The specific enforcement times will be broadcast locally each day

prior to the race on VHF-FM marine channel 16. This portion of the Pamlico River has been determined to be a low traffic area during this time of the year. This rule allows vessels to request permission to enter as a spectator or pass through the special local regulation.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the special local regulation may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section IV.A above, this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s

responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. If you believe this rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section above.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) requires Federal

agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, which guides the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This proposed rule involves a special local regulation lasting approximately one hour on three consecutive days that prohibits entry into a portion of the Pamlico River. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60 (a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket where indicated under ADDRESSES.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 100 as follows:

PART 100 – SPECIAL LOCAL REGULATIONS/ REGATTAS & MARINE PARADES

1. The authority citation for part 100 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1233.

2. Add § 100.35T05-1100 to read as follows:

§ 100.35T05-1100 Special Local Regulation, Pamlico River, Washington, NC.

(a) Location. The following area is a special local regulation: all navigable waters of the Pamlico River near Washington, North Carolina, from approximate positions: latitude 35°28'42"N, longitude 076°59'14"W, then northwest to latitude 35°29'53"N, longitude 077°01'18"W, then northwest along the shoreline to latitude 35°32'29"N, longitude 077°03'47"W, then northwest to latitude 35°32'34"N, longitude 077°03'56"W, then northeast to latitude 35°32'42"N, longitude 077°03'50"W, then southeast along the shoreline to latitude 35°29'06"N, longitude 076°58'48"W, then southwest back to the point of origin, a length of approximately 6 miles.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section --

Captain of the Port means the Commander, Sector North Carolina.

Coast Guard Patrol Commander means a Coast Guard commissioned, warrant, or petty officer designated by the COTP North Carolina for the enforcement of the special local regulation.

Official Patrol means any vessel assigned by the COTP North Carolina with a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer on board and displaying the Coast Guard ensign.

Participants means persons and vessels involved in the high-speed boat race.

Spectators means persons and vessels observing the high-speed boat race.

(c) Regulations. (1) The general regulations governing special local regulations in § 100.501(c) apply to the area described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) With the exception of participants and spectators, entry into or remaining in this special local regulation is prohibited unless authorized by the COTP North Carolina or the COTP North Carolina's Patrol Commander. All other vessels must depart the special local regulation immediately.

(3) To request permission to remain in, enter, or transit through the special local regulation, contact the COTP North Carolina or the COTP North Carolina's Patrol Commander through the Coast Guard Sector North Carolina Command Duty Officer, Wilmington, North Carolina, at telephone number 910-343-3882 or on VHF-FM marine band radio channel 13 (165.65 MHz) or channel 16 (156.8 MHz).

(d) Enforcement. The U.S. Coast Guard may be assisted in the patrol and enforcement of the special local regulation by Federal, State, and local agencies.

(e) Enforcement period. This section will be enforced on February 23 and February 24, 2018, with an alternate date of February 25, 2018.

(f) Public notification. The Coast Guard will notify the public of the specific enforcement times each day prior to the race via VHF-FM marine channel 16.

Dated: February 2, 2018

Bion B. Stewart,
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port North Carolina.
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